



Dornoch, Lairg, Brora, Tain and Tongue News

MAY 2025

'The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the ultimate proof of God's power to redeem and transform all things' - St. Athanasius

At Christmas you probably heard the reading from St John's Gospel that describes the birth of Jesus in two ways. John called Jesus the Word of God made flesh, coming to live with us. He also spoke about the Light that enlightens everyone coming into the world, a light that shines in the darkness, and that cannot be extinguished (John 1.1-14).

When Jesus was preaching, you remember that he said, "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8.12).

The events that we remembered during Holy Week, and especially on Good Friday, showed how people tried very hard to extinguish the light. At one point it even looked as though they had succeeded, as darkness covered the earth and Jesus died on the cross.

But the resurrection of Jesus, which we especially celebrate during this Easter season, showed us that God cannot be defeated, and our new paschal candles stand in our churches proclaiming that Jesus is alive, and is the light for all people.

But Jesus didn't only say, "I am the Light of the world". He also said to his followers, "*You* are the light of the world ... Let your light shine ... so that people may give glory to your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5.14-16). St Paul picked up on this idea, too, when he wrote to the Christians at Ephesus (Ephesians 5.8-14): "Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light."

The church reminds us of that in baptism too, when the person who is baptised is given a candle, and told to "Shine as a light in the world, to the glory of God the Father".

This Easter season – remember that! Share the light of Christ with each other and take it out into the world.

***Lord Jesus Christ, set us on fire,
Burn from us all that dims your light;
Kindle an answering flame in lives around,
That darkness may be driven back,
And glory stream into this world,
Transforming it with light!
Amen!***

- Fr Simon

THE MISSION CHARGE

(St Columba, Brora and St Maelrubha, Lairg)

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

11th May – 5pm

Following the usual service of Healing and Renewal on 11th May at the church of St Columba, Brora the annual congregational meeting for The Mission Charge will take place at 5pm. Bishop Mark will be in attendance and it would be good if as many people from St Columba's and from St Maelrubha's as possible could be there. You might want to come for the service at 4pm and then stay on afterwards.

We are looking for at least two new vestry members and it would be ideal if we had at least one person from each of the two congregations. If you would like to find out more about what being a vestry member involves and what the process is for election, please contact Fr Simon on 07854 309339 or email ihssimonscott@gmail.com

Thank you!

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all those who have helped in one way or another during the Lenten season and to get our church buildings ready for Holy Week and Easter. Leading services, preparing beautiful flowers, cleaning etc etc etc. But most of all thanks to everyone who has been along to worship our great redeemer God, through His Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ – We know it's not all about numbers, but across our four Easter Day services, we welcomed over 130 people! He is risen – Alleluia!

Arrangements regarding Sunday Services for May 2025

You will realise that the original date that Fr Simon had agreed to act as priest in charge for St Andrew's Tain and The Mission Charge (27th April) has now passed.

The way forward with regard to priestly ministry for these charges is not yet clear. Fr Simon has agreed to continue to help out for the month of May in order to give a little more time for making decisions. This will mean leadership of services will continue as they have been doing for the past few months.

Thank you for your patience, understanding and support as we try to discern the best arrangement for making sure that worship and ministry continues in these charges.

THE VISIT OF MARY TO ELIZABETH

On Saturday 31st May we celebrate the Visit of Mary to Elizabeth (the mother of John the Baptist). Our service will be at 11am in St Columba's, Brora and will be followed by a light lunch (soup and sandwiches). It would be lovely to see you there, so please do come along to find out why this day is so important to us.

A poem by Deirdre

Deidre is a member of our congregation at St Columba's, Brora and is also something of a poet. She sent me the following in the days following our Easter service at St Columba's and with her permission, I'm sharing it with you.

By whatever name God, The Universe you prefer
He has really given us all we need to live
Be it beautiful nature and scenery all around
So if we want too, can live off the land also sea.

He's given man intelligence and knowledge
Skills to make medds and keep us right
Brain capacity to help this world choose right
We should stop and be thankful everyday

With knowledge there always comes darkness
But we need 'to keep fighting the good fight'
And know everything will work out right
Corruption will eventually be overturned
Remember the sun is always shining somewhere.

- Deirdre C MacLennan

If you have something you might like to share on our newsletter, please do send it to Fr Simon – ihssimonscott@gmail.com

THE ASCENSION

Thursday 29th May is when we celebrate The Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ to heaven. We will be having a special Eucharist at St Andrew's, Tain at 6pm in the church with hymns and incense. This will be a glorious celebration where Rev Cliff presides, Rev Alex preaches and Rev Simon plays the organ - so do please join us for worship!

Services this month

Sunday 4th May

8.30am – St Maelrubha, Lairg – Holy Eucharist – Rev Simon Scott

11am – St Finnbarr, Dornoch – Holy Eucharist – Rev Simon Scott

11am – St Andrew, Tain – Holy Eucharist – Rev Alex Gordon

Sunday 11th May

11am – St Finnbarr, Dornoch – Holy Eucharist – Rev Cliff Piper

11am – St Andrew, Tain – Holy Eucharist – Rev Simon Scott

4pm – St Columba, Brora – Healing and Renewal – Bishop Mark Strange

Thursday 15th May

12 noon – St Trolla, The Crask – Holy Eucharist – Rev David Balfour

Sunday 18th May

8.30am – St Maelrubha, Lairg – Holy Eucharist – Rev Don Grant

11am – St Finnbarr, Dornoch – Holy Eucharist – Rev Simon Scott

11am – St Andrew, Tain – Holy Eucharist – Rev Alex Gordon

Sunday 25th May

11am - St Finnbarr, Dornoch – Holy Eucharist – Rev Gerry Livingstone

11am - St Andrew, Tain – Holy Eucharist – Rev Simon Scott

4pm – St Columba, Brora - Communion from Reserved Sacrament – Elizabeth Doyle

Tuesday 27th May

10.30am – Hollybank, Ardgay IV24 3DH – Holy Eucharist – Rev Don Grant

Thursday 29th May

6pm – St Andrew, Tain – Holy Eucharist THE ASCENSION – Rev Cliff Piper

Saturday 31st May

11am – St Columba, Brora – Holy Eucharist THE VISIT OF MARY TO ELIZABETH – Rev Simon Scott

A regular service of either Holy Eucharist or Communion from Reserved Sacrament happens at St Andrew's in Tain EVERY Thursday at 6pm. Thanks to Janet McDonald and the Rev Cliff Piper for their efforts in making sure this mid-week service continues to take place.

READINGS THIS MONTH

Sunday 4th May – Easter 3

Acts 9.1-6 Psalm 30 Revelation 5.11-14 John 21.1-19

Sunday 11th May – Easter 4

Acts 9.36-43 Psalm 23 Revelation 7.9-17 John 10.22-30

Sunday 18th May – Easter 5

Acts 11.1-18 Psalm 148 Revelation 21.1-6 John 13.31-35

Sunday 25th May – Easter 6

Acts 16.9-15 Psalm 67 Revelation 21.10, 22-22.5 John 14.23-29

CONTACTS

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Scottish Charity Numbers: Missions: SC023271, Dornoch: SC009639, Tain: SC009500